2nd November 1931]

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*d*) of this question, may I know whether the Government made enquiries to ascertain whether such instructions were issued?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I do not think the Government made any enquiries."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"In view of the fact that there was this question asking for information, may I know why the Government did not make enquiries?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"It was not thought that any enquiry was needed."

Alleged ill-treatment of the Adi-Dravidas of the villages of Koothapal and Krishnasamudram by the caste Hindus.

* 456 *Q.*—Mr. H. M. Jagannatham: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the last week of June 1931 an attempt was made by caste Hindus in the villages of Koothapal and Krishnasamudram, Trichinopoly district, to coerce the Adi-Dravidas of the places to sign a declaration to the effect that they would wear clothes only above the knee, use no vessels except those made of clay, abstain from sending their children to schools, and not wear any jewellery made of gold or silver;

(*b*) whether his attention has been drawn to the further fact that owing to the refusal of the Adi-Dravidas to sign the above declaration, the caste Hindus molested a large number of them, causing injuries to some, who had to be treated in the hospitals;

(*c*) what steps were taken by the local police authorities to bring the offenders to book and afford relief to the beaten Adi-Dravidas; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to appoint a court of enquiry to investigate this matter?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) As the riot which occurred at Koothapal on the 17th June 1931, between caste Hindus and Adi-Dravidas is the subject of criminal case pending before the Sub-divisional Magistrate, Trichinopoly, the Government are unable to answer the question in detail at present.

(*c*) Thirty-eight persons have been charged by the police and the trial is proceeding.

(*d*) The matter is already under judicial enquiry.

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I know when the trial actually started in this case?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I must ask for notice of the question."

[2nd November 1931

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" May I ask the hon. Member, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the Adi-Dravidas feel that there will be a certain amount of miscarriage of justice on account of the long delay in the matter? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" The Government have absolutley no such apprehension."

Civil Justice

Construction of an overbridge to connect the Small Causes Court buildings with the High Court buildings.

* 457 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the original estimates for the new Small Causes Court buildings provided for any overbridge connecting the new buildings with the present High Court buildings;

(*b*) if not, why this was omitted from the estimates and who is responsible for the same;

(*c*) whether any representations have been made to the hon. the Law Member, officially as to the necessity of an overbridge connecting the said two buildings; and

(*d*) whether the Government have examined the question of the approximate cost of an overbridge connecting the present High Court buildings and the new Small Causes Court buildings?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) It was not thought necessary to provide an overbridge.

(*c*) & (*d*) No.

Comparative statement of suits and appeals instituted in the High Court and the Subordinate Civil Courts.

* 458 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government will be pleased to call for a comparative statement of suits and appeals instituted in the High Court and in the Subordinate Civil Courts in the Presidency for two months after the summer recess during the years 1929, 1930 and 1931?

A.—A statement [a] is laid on the table.

Receipts and expenditure of the District Munsif's Court at Palamcottah.

* 459 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total receipt of income in the shape of Court-fees in each of the years 1928, 1929 and 1930 in the District Munsif's Court, Palamcottah;

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 458 infra.